

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on Page 23, lines 1 - 19 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- Commonly-assigned, co-pending U. S. Patent Application 09/790,104 (filed on Feb. 21, 2001; now U. S. Patent 7,000,834), entitled "Method to Address Security and Privacy Issues of the Use of RFID Systems to Track Consumer Products", which was briefly discussed above, discloses techniques to prevent global tracking of people and the items they have purchased containing RFID tags, in addition to techniques for using RFID technology to prevent tampering of product information stored in RFID tags and to prevent pricing mistakes made at the point of sale. Commonly-assigned, co-pending U. S. Patent Application 09/847,889 (filed on May 3, 2001; now U. S. Patent 7,076,441), entitled "Identification and Tracking of Persons Using RFID-Tagged Items in Store Environments", discloses techniques for using RFID technology to identify or characterize people, based on the RFID tags present in items being carried by that person at a point in time. If a prior-purchase database is provided with information about which person bought particular uniquely-identified items in the past, then the RFID tags may be used to locate information in the database that will identify the person currently carrying the items. Otherwise, the person can be characterized based upon the types of items he is currently carrying (as determined by reading the RFID tags of the items). Commonly-assigned, co-pending U. S. Patent Application 10/612,251 (filed on July 2, 2003; now U. S. Patent 6,992,574), entitled "Object Matching via RFID", discloses techniques for using RFID technology to track and match objects, when the RFID tags of these objects have been programmed with data suitable for indicating that the items are in association with one another. These commonly-assigned inventions are hereby

incorporated herein by reference as if set forth fully. --